

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Title: On page 1 replace title to read in full as follows:

METHOD FOR OPERATING A RATING SERVER BASED ON USAGE AND DOWNLOAD PATTERNS WITHIN A PEER-TO-PEER NETWORK

Summary of the Invention: On page 4 replace lines 1-28 to read in full as follows:

A method is presented for pruning a peer-to-peer network such that a peer-to-peer search within the peer-to-peer network is initiated beginning with those nodes on which relevant content has previously been found for particular search keywords. For each completed search, a peer node gathers client rating results and then eventually forwards the rating information to a rating server. The rating results reflect the degree to which searches successfully located content for keywords in a search using particular peer nodes. A rating server maintains a database of rating results received from peer nodes.

Prior to initiating a new search at a peer node, the peer node consults one or more rating databases to retrieve a set of initial nodes to which the node should initiate the new search in order to maximize the speed and success of finding relevant content. The node then performs the new search using the set of initial nodes.

A rating server may support a variety of registration modes for registering peer nodes that access its rating database, and the rating server may support a variety of financial transaction modes with the different registration modes. As part of the registration process, a peer node may download and install a rating plug-in that generates the client rating results